

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): Claim 1 (currently amended). A switch coupled between a  
2 plurality of host units and a device for communicating there between and comprising:  
3 a) a first serial advanced technology attachment (ATA) port including a first host  
4 task file, coupled to a first host unit, the first host task file responsive to  
5 commands sent by the first host unit, to the device, said first host task file  
6 operative to generate a first task file output;  
7 b) a second serial ATA port, coupled to a second host unit including a second host  
8 task file, the second host task file responsive to commands sent by the second host  
9 unit, to the device, said second host task file operative to generate a second task  
10 file output;  
11 c) a third serial ATA port, including a device task file and coupled to a device, for  
12 causing access, by the first or second host units, to the device, said device task file  
13 operative to generate a device task file output; and  
14 d) an arbitration and control circuit, coupled to the first, second and third ports, and  
15 responsive to said first host task file output, said second host task file output and  
16 said device task file output and in response thereto for selecting one of the first  
17 host or second host units to concurrently access the device, through the switch, by  
18 accepting commands, from either of the first or second host units, at any given  
19 time, including when the device is not in an idle state.

1 Claim 44 (new): A switch as recited in claim 1 wherein said first and second task files  
2 each operate in layer 4 of the SATA communication protocol.